



ASSEMBLYMEMBER
NICOLE PARRA
Representing the 30th Assembly District



Parra Notes

March 10, 2006

Hello Friends:

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHT

It has been a very busy week as my colleagues and I have been in negotiations over Governor Schwarzenegger's bond proposals. I, along with other Central Valley lawmakers, have been working to ensure that the Central Valley receives a strong commitment in the bonds for surface water storage projects and necessary funding for Highway 99. It has been a challenging week and, even though I will be back in the district, I am on call all weekend, upon request of the Speaker of the Assembly, should we need to report back to Sacramento.

NOW, TO THE REST OF THE WEEK IN SACRAMENTO

I started out the week by meeting with **California State University, Fresno** student government leaders, who were in **Sacramento** for the **California Higher Education Student Summit (CHESS)**. **CHESS** is held annually and brings together **California State University (CSU)** leaders, student advocates, higher education policy experts, public officials, alumni, and students from the State of California. The conference is the only statewide leadership conference for **CSU** students.

For more information on **Fresno State**, please visit their web site at www.csufresno.edu/ or to read more on **CHESS**, please go to http://www.csustudents.org/about_cssa/chess/index.asp

Central Valley members of the **California Bankers Association (CBA)** paid me a visit this week to discuss issues ranging from adult financial empowerment to data security and elder financial abuse to flood insurance. It was a pleasure meeting with **Tom Beene** of the **Visalia Community Bank**, **Stephanie Cihak** from the **Union Bank of California** in **San Francisco**, and **Bart Hill** of the **San Joaquin Bank** in **Bakersfield** and hearing about the recent goings on in the banking industry.

The **California Bankers Association (CBA)** represents over 300 banks in the state. The interests of the **CBA** span from agri-business to consumer lending and from small business to international economic development. **CBA's** mission is to provide its members with the tools to succeed in California's vibrant marketplace.

For additional information regarding the **CBA**, please go to <http://www.calbankers.com/>

This week I also sat down with Central Valley residents working in the life sciences industry as part of **California Life Sciences Day**, which is organized by leading bio-pharmaceutical companies. The purpose of **Life Sciences Day** is to inform legislators of the important role this industry plays in California's economic viability.

To find out more about **California Life Sciences Day**, please check out <http://www.lifesciencesday.org/>

I also met with representatives from the **Association of California Healthcare Districts (ACHD)** to discuss budgetary concerns and issues with the Medi-Cal waver, which is causing fiscal constraints in many of the state's hospitals.

The **ACHD** works to organize healthcare districts in a cohesive way, building on leadership, education, and legislative advocacy, so districts are better able to serve their respective communities.

If you would like to learn more about the **ACHD**, please visit their web site at <http://www.achd.org/>

One of the highlights of my week revolved around a great meeting I had with students from the **University of California, Merced**. The **UC Merced** delegation was in **Sacramento** as part of the **University of California's** annual **UC Day**. During this meeting we reminisced about UC Merced's ground-breaking, talked about the success the university has achieved thus far, and discussed future projects for the campus.

For more information about **UC Merced**, please view their web site at <http://www.ucmerced.edu/> or to learn more about **UC Day**, access the following web site at <http://www.ucday.org/>

Well, like always, it was great seeing **Bakersfield Mayor Harvey Hall** this week when he, along with **Darlene Denison, Marx Corum, Vera Chin-Star, John Jimenez, and Tom McGinnis** came to Sacramento to honor the **Hall Ambulance Service's "Star of Life" awardees**. This year's winners are Mayor Hall, Vera Chin-Star, and John Jimenez. We had some extra time so I took the group onto the Assembly Floor, where they got a great view of where so much of the state's business is done.

Hall Ambulance Service, based in **Bakersfield**, is the sole 911 provider for 87% of **Kern County**.

To read more about **Hall Ambulance Service**, please access their web site at www.hallambulanceservice.com/

I had a chance to also spend some time with members of the **Western Growers Association (WGA) Board of Directors**. **WGA** is an organization that provides legislative advocacy support for its member farmers in order to keep them competitive in both California and Arizona.

To find out more about the **WGA**, please view their web site at <http://www.wga.com>

As part of their legislative day in Sacramento, members of the **California Independent Petroleum Association (CIPA)** dropped by my office to discuss their legislative priorities for the year, which include gaining support for one of my bills, **AB 677**. **AB 677** would provide a market for waste gas where the utility would buy the electricity, fueled by this gas, for operators at a below market price.

If you would like to learn more about **CIPA**, I encourage you to visit their web site at <http://www.cipa.org>

This week I also chaired a hearing of the **Joint Legislative Audit Committee (JLAC)**, during which, we approved the following audit requests:

2006 – 106: California Department of Health Services Licensing and Certification Branch

2006 – 108: California Institute for Regenerative Medicine and California Stem Cell Research and Cures Act

2006 – 114: California First Five Commission

If you would like to find out more about the auditing process and to get updates and copies of state audits, please visit the web site of the **California State Auditor, Elaine M. Howle** at <http://www.bsa.ca.gov/>

Another fantastic highlight was having lunch with **Chancellor Robert J. Birgeneau** of the **University of California Berkeley (UCB)**, my alma mater. It really was a unique experience meeting with **Chancellor Birgeneau**, who is extremely well-accomplished in his fields of mathematics and physics and very well respected for his administrative work at **UCB**. We discussed the possible construction of a public-private

endowment to help finance the education of University of California students in financial need.

To learn more about **UCB**, please check their web site at <http://www.berkeley.edu/> or to read more about **Chancellor Birgeneau**, please go to <http://cio.chance.berkeley.edu/chancellor/Birgeneau/>

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations to Judith Horn, whom I named the 2006 Woman of the Year for the 30th Assembly District.

Ms. Horn, a Hanford native, is the current Community Director for the Kings Partnership for Children. She is also a member of numerous community organizations including the Lakeside School District Board, the Hanford Noon Kiwanis, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Hanford High School Superintendent's Advisory Board, the Hanford Chamber of Commerce, the Tulare Kings Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Horn has been honored in the past as the Kings County Sheriff's Department Citizen of the Year, the Kings County Health Department Community Member of the Year, and as a recipient of the "Make A Difference" Award from the Kings County School Board Association.

The Woman of the Year event is held annually to commemorate extraordinary women in California actively working toward making a difference in their respective communities. On Monday, March 20, 2006 honorees will convene in Sacramento for a special ceremony to be held on the floor of the State Assembly.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Frank Stiger of my **Hanford District Office** attended a meeting of the **Kings County Rural Organizing Project (ROP)**, which deals with strategic planning issues in terms of getting the cities and counties of the 30th **District** on the same page when it comes to lobbying the state for local needs. This is a great way for all our communities to have a knowledge and understanding of what our neighbors are doing. It is also a great forum in which our city and county officials can establish relationships that will ultimately serve to benefit our communities.

For more information on the **Kings County ROP**, please contact **Frank** in my **Hanford Office** at (559) 585-7170.

ONGOING EVENT

When you have some free time, please join **Pastor Jordan, Isiah Crompton**, and other community members in their effort to get out the message about stopping violence in our communities. They walk from house to house every Saturday, knocking on doors and explaining to people the importance of keeping an eye on and working against violence in our neighborhoods. I would like to invite everyone, from individuals, to families, to groups of friends, and any concerned organizations to join us in making our streets safer for our families and our children. For more information on the **Stop the Violence** campaign, please contact **Pastor Jordan** at (661) 472-2637.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Any students interested in nursing careers should strongly consider applying for the **Associate Degree Nursing Scholarship at Bakersfield College**. **IT'S STILL NOT TOO LATE TO APPLY!**

I know how stressful it can be to have to worry about taking out student loans to pay for college, but you never have to repay scholarship money.

For more information on applying for the **Fall 2006/Spring 2007** scholarship call the **Health Professionals Education Foundation** at 1-800-773-1669 or visit www.healthprofessions.ca.gov. The application **deadline** for the fall 2006/spring 2007 school year scholarship is **March 24th 2006**.

Youth In Need

The **California Coalition for Youth's (CCY)** mission is to be the **PLACE** that improves and empowers the lives of California's youth by:

- Partnering with youth
- Linking with youth-serving programs throughout California
- Advocating for youth rights
- Connecting youth to resources
- Educating communities, policymakers, and stakeholders

The **CCY** also coordinates a statewide, toll free, 24-hour, confidential phone crisis line available to young people between the ages of 12-24, and concerned friends and family members. **CCY** provides crisis intervention counseling on many issues including family problems, sexual assault, eating disorders, teen pregnancy, substance abuse, suicide and more. **CCY** offers support, encouragement, and referrals to youth needing assistance or in crisis situations. The **California Youth Crisis Line** connects an average of 12,000 callers with vital resources annually. Agencies as well as young adults from every county in California use the Crisis **Line's** toll-free number, **1-800-843-5200**.

NEED HOMEWORK HELP?

The **California State Library** has made available through their website a new service called **Live Homework Help**. This service enables students to connect on-line with a tutor for assistance with homework questions. Supported by Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) federal funding, students can access Live Homework Help through [28 California public libraries](#). It is important to note that the tutors who respond to student questions are screened, trained, and closely monitored.

Live Homework Help is easy! Log on to <http://www.library.ca.gov/tutor/> from your computer any time between **1:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.** and follow the simple setup instructions.

CALIFORNIA YOUTH CONNECTION

The **California Youth Connection (CYC)** is a statewide organization comprised of foster youth, both past and present, who work diligently in formulating policies and advocating for legislation on behalf of California's foster youth population.

For more information on **CYC**, please visit their web site at <http://www.calyouthconn.org/site/cyc/> or simply call **CYC's** statewide office at 415-442-5060.

MEETING REQUESTS

If you or your organization would like to set up a time to meet with me or would like for me to attend an event you are sponsoring, please feel free to contact my **Executive Secretary Ellen Manolis** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at Ellen.Manolis@asm.ca.gov.

INTERNS WANTED

I am accepting applications for the fall internship program in my **Hanford, Bakersfield** and **Sacramento** offices. Candidates should be residents of the 30th Assembly District, possess solid research and communication skills, and have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the Central Valley. Applications can be found by going to: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30>.

For Hanford office internships contact **Matt Rogers** at (559) 585-7170 or by e-mail at Matt.Rogers@asm.ca.gov.

For Bakersfield office internships contact **Paula DeLaRiva** at (661) 334-3745 or by e-mail at Paula.DeLaRiva@asm.ca.gov.

For Sacramento office internships contact **Brandon Sanders** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at Brandon.Sanders@asm.ca.gov.

*****NEW SECTION – ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY*****

1785: Thomas Jefferson is appointed minister to France.

1848: Congress ratified the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, ending the Mexican War.

1864: U. S. Grant became commander of the Union armies during the Civil War.

1876: The first telephone call ("Mr. Watson, come here. I want you.") was made by Alexander Graham Bell.

1969: James Earl Ray was sentenced in Memphis, Tennessee, to 99 years in prison for the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr., in April 1968.

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